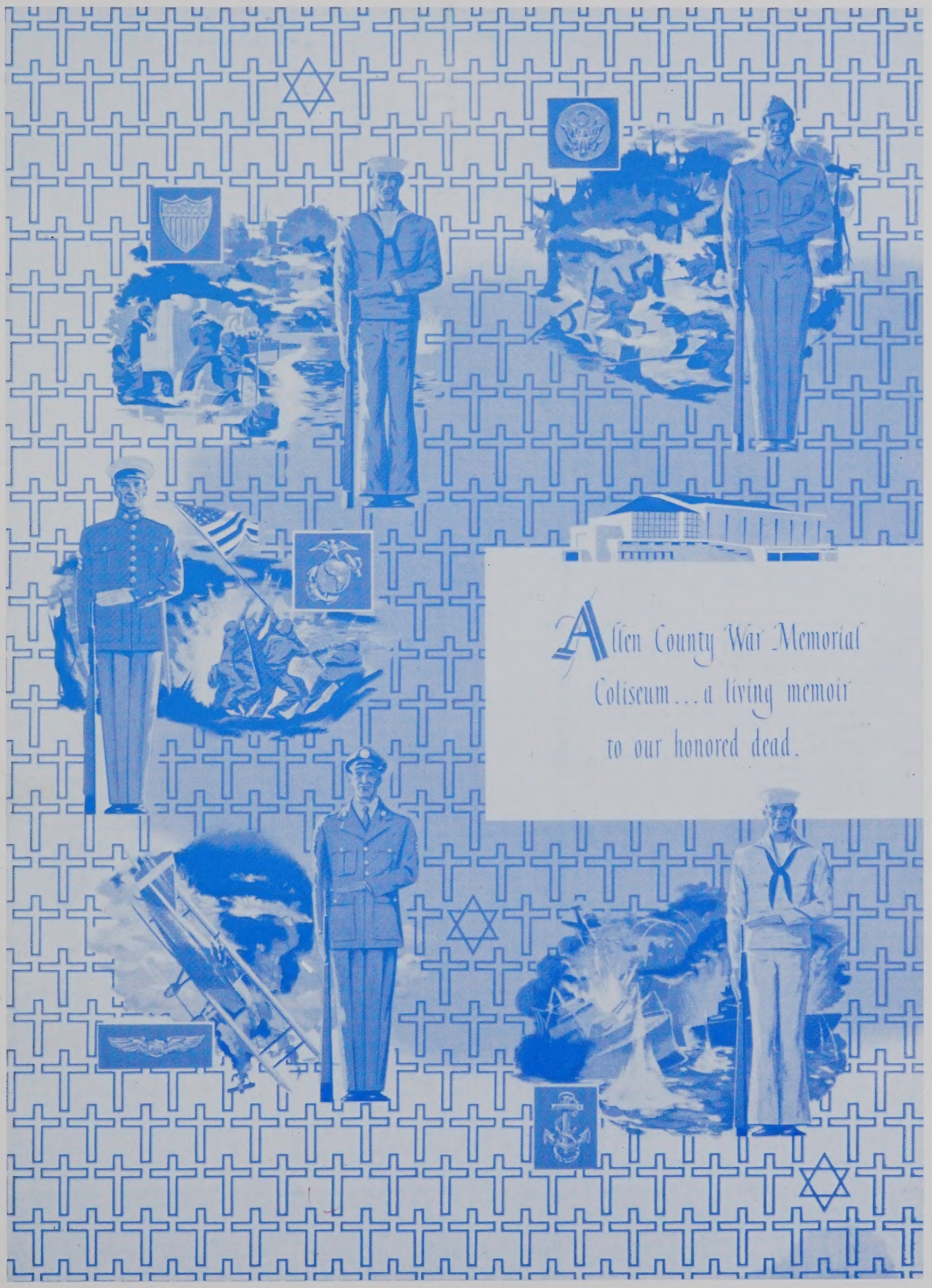
GEN

ALLEN COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 1833 02606 8038
Gc 977.202 F77aLca
Allen County war memorial
coliseum


Allen County War Memorial
Coliseum... a living memoir
to our honored dead.

Allen County Public Library
900 Webster Street
PO Box 2270
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-2270

This cover is a
reproduction of the
original dedication program.

GEN

ALLEN COUNTY

WAR MEMORIAL

COLISEUM

CONTENTS

PREFACE

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM 1

F. ELLWOOD ALLEN REPORT 5

COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM COMMISSION. 7

SECOND F. ELLWOOD ALLEN REPORT 12

DECLARATORY RESOLUTION #101. 17

REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN 18

REFERENDUM RESULTS 22

HOUSE BILL #131 23

SELECTION OF THE ARCHITECT 24

SELECTING THE SITE 28

INSPECTION OF OTHER ARENAS 32

HOUSE BILL #178 34

BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED. 35

SPECIFICATIONS, BIDS, AWARDS 38

$3,000,000 BOND ISSUE 42

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY 43

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES 1951-1952 45

MEMORIAL HALL 50

DEDICATION 52

P R E F A C E

This is intended to document dates and activities covering the building of the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum from its inception on February 16, 1944 to the dedication on September 28, 1952.

Many organizations and individuals were involved during that period. It is impossible to include all names, therefore, with a few exceptions, only committee chairmen are named.

Several organizations have similar names. The following list is for clarification.

Fort Wayne Junior Chamber of Commerce
(Now known as Fort Wayne Jaycees)

War Memorial Coliseum Commission
Coliseum Commission
(Members appointed by Jaycees)

Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations

Allen County Board of Commissioners
County Commissioners
(An elected body)

Allen County Council
County Council
(An elected body)

War Memorial Coliseum Board of Trustees
Board of Trustees
(Members appointed by County Officials)

- DON MYERS

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

1944-52

A project of the

FORT WAYNE JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"That the Fort Wayne Junior Chamber of Commerce undertake a project to build a fieldhouse in Fort Wayne and dedicate it as a War Memorial"

These are the words of Paul G. Gronauer, immediate past president of the Fort Wayne Junior Chamber of Commerce, in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the organization on February 16, 1944 at the Chamber of Commerce. This was the beginning of a project of planning, publicity, and promotion, which led to the building of the ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM.

Previous discussions had pointed to the need in this area for a facility which would accomodate large groups of people for sports, educational, religious, and commercial activities. The construction of such a facility was considered to be an excellent method of providing a fitting "living memorial" dedicated to the memory of those who gave their lives in the service of their country. This also would be a tribute to all veterans who served both at home and overseas.

On April 22, 1944 a unanimous vote of approval was given this project by the entire Jaycee organization. (The individual members were known as Jaycees. Since that time the official name of the organization has been changed to the Fort Wayne Jaycees).

In a subsequent meeting Jaycee President Ramon S. Perry named the first Coliseum Project Committee. The Committee included Don Myers, Chairman; Robert Punsky, Survey; Gordon Adams, Publicity; Martin Greven, Architecture; Ramon Perry, Speakers Bureau. Other members named were Robert Mace, Del Gossett, Carl Lee, Paul Gronauer, and Tom Walworth.

In its first meeting it was brought to the attention of the Committee that a comprehensive 25 year plan for modernizing Fort Wayne's public recreational facilities was recently submitted to the Fort Wayne Park Board. This was the result of an extensive survey by F. Ellwood Allen and George A. Nesbitt of the National Recreation Association of New York. This survey was made upon the initiative of the Pi Chapter of the Psi Iota Xi and the Fort Wayne Park Board.

Included in the recommendations of this report was, "A Community recreation building as a living memorial for public gatherings, sports activities, concerts, and conventions."

Lawton Park was recommended as the site for this building.

Soon after the news release of the fieldhouse project by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, two other similar projects were announced. One project was that of Wayne Township trustee Walter F. Hayes, as a township endeavor, to be built under the Works Relief Program. Financing would be through taxation. No location had been selected.

As this project was discontinued Mr. Hayes announced that he was lending full support to the Junior Chamber of Commerce in their effort to build a Memorial fieldhouse.

A private enterprise consisting of a sports arena and auditorium was announced by John E. O'Connor, a prominent retired Fort Wayne businessman. The Bluffton Road-Brooklyn Avenue location had been selected as the probable site. This project also was soon abandoned.

In August 1944 Lavern E. Gelow was elected Jaycee President and assured the community that the Jaycees would continue to push the Memorial project.

During the next several months, the Committee did everything possible to obtain support of civic and business leaders as well as the general public.

Under the direction of Survey Committee Chairman Robert Punsky, the Committee undertook an extensive survey to aid in determining the most practical and desirable memorial. The entire Jaycee organization participated in this survey. All Jaycees were asked to contact ten individuals and complete the survey form. A copy of the survey sheet is shown here.

Approximately 1,200 persons responded to the survey. The result indicated that 78% of persons interviewed preferred a fieldhouse-auditorium type of Memorial. Public subscription and taxation method of financing was preferred by 49% of those interviewed.

February 26, 1945.

Gentlemen -

Attached hereto is a copy of the survey sheets used in the poll taken by the Jaycees recently to determine the most suitable type of memorial for Fort Wayne.

The results are shown by the percentages in the left margin.

Each Jaycee interviewed the following persons,

1- Executive

3-Middle Income Family Men

3-Middle Income Family Women

2-Children of High-School Age

1-Single Girl Between 21-25

10 Total

This poll covered all sections of our community. We submit the attached for your consideration in planning.

JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

JUNIOR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

World War II Memorial Survey

City of Ft. Wayne

Strictly Confidential

Name _____

Address _____

Occupation _____

I. What type of World War Memorial do you think Ft. Wayne should have. (Number three of the following, in the order of your preference.)

17% ( ) Civic Auditorium (Hall for conventions, dances, plays, public gatherings, concerts.)

61% ( ) Combination Auditorium & Field House (Including the above, but including facilities for basketball, bowling, & other sports.)

6% ( ) Field House (Indoor enclosure for athletic events.)

4% ( ) Soldiers & Sailors Monument (Edifice erected for monumental purposes)

6% ( ) Outdoor Stadium (For baseball, track, tennis, and other outdoor events.)

4% ( ) Community Outdoor Swimming Pool.

2% ( ) Other suggestions.

100%

II. What method of financing the original cost of such a project should be followed. Number two in the order of preference.

18% ( ) Taxation

32% ( ) Public subscription

49% ( ) Combination taxation and public subscription

1% ( ) If none of the above, what do you suggest

100%

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

THE F. ELLWOOD ALLEN REPORT

Having received the final results of the Jaycee survey - the original plan for a combination auditorium-fieldhouse was confirmed. Expert advice was needed. Inasmuch as the members of National Recreation Association team were well acquainted with the recreational needs of this community, F. Ellwood Allen was engaged to study the type of activities, site, and other details of the proposed facility. The cost of this study was $380.00 and was borne by the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Construction of a civic recreation building with a seating capacity of 7,500 and parking for 1,500 cars was recommended in the Allen report. Primary functions of this facility would include indoor skating, basketball, large public dances, trade exhibits, auto shows, volleyball and badminton. A minimum of $1,500,000 would be required to cover the cost of construction.

If secondary functions were included a much greater cost would be involved. Secondary activities would require a swimming pool, bowling alleys, game rooms, meeting rooms, etc.

The report is based on a probable 1965 population of 140,000 for Fort Wayne, and that the structure would undoubtedly have an influence within a radius of 30 to 50 miles of the city.

Three potential sites were recommended. First priority was a downtown area bounded on the west by Clinton Street, north and east by the St. Mary's River, and the south by Superior Street. A large portion of this area is owned by the city, under the Administration of the Water Department.

Second choice for the site was the south portion of Lawton Park, which had been previously recommended. Third choice was the abandoned North Highlands Golf Course in the northwest section of the city. All three choices were based on the probability of the Nickel Plate Railroad elevation.

In August 1945 E. Hoy McConnell was elected President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

F. ELLWOOD ALLEN PARK AND RECREATION PLANNER

17 Vanderbilt Avenue • Manhasset • Long Island, New York

Junior Chamber of Commerce

Fort Wayne, Indiana

TO PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Study for Civic Recreation Center

Expenses	
Trip to Fort Wayne	$ 90.00
Office expenses	45.00
Fee - 7 days @ $35 per day	245.00
	$ 380.00

PLANNER • DESIGNER • CONSULTANT

COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM COMMISSION

It was evident that the help and support of local business and civic leaders would be necessary for this project to succeed. Several local leaders were invited to attend a meeting on Monday evening, February 25, 1946 to become acquainted with the Memorial Coliseum project and become a part of the promotional process.

In attendance were,

Otto Adams	Harry Hogan
Miller Ellingham	Donnelly P. McDonald
James R. Fleming	Harold J. Mamoser
Helene Foellinger	Don Myers
Hilliard Gates	C. C. Oberly
Lavern E. Gelow	Ramon S. Perry
Walter F. Hayes	Paul Philips
	Carl J. Suedhoff.

These became Charter Members of Committee known as the COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM COMMISSION. The purpose of this commission was to advise and work with the Jaycees to completion of the building of a Memorial Coliseum.

In its organizational meeting the Coliseum Commission named Don Myers, Chairman; Lavern Gelow, Secretary; and Donnelly P. McDonald, Treasurer.

The Chairman gave a brief review of the work to date, including the survey concerning the type of memorial, the survey by the recreational consultant, and other related information.

An investigation into the methods of financing this project had been made by Ramon S. Perry. Mr. Perry reported that the City of Fort Wayne is bonded to the limits; the township statute which had been suggested for use is unsatisfactory, due to its reference to memorializing Civil War Veterans; the county is the most likely source of funds.

In a further report Mr. Perry advised that under the Act of the 1921 Indiana State Legislature, the Board of County Commissioners have authority to direct the County Council to appropriate funds for the construction of War Memorials. The Act provided that the amount appropriated could not exceed one half of one percent of the taxable property value.

The group assembled approved in principle the project proposed and the county plan of financing. A further proposal was accepted to raise funds for preliminary studies and architect fees for a suggested design for a structure of this type.

It was recommended that representatives of the Fort Wayne Park Board and the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce be added to this Commission.

Following the organization of the COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM COMMISSION, this group met in weekly sessions at the Chamber of Commerce.

At the next meeting the Chairman appointed the following working committees,

Planning Committee

Otto Adams, Chairman

Ramon S. Perry

Carl J. Suedhoff

Finance Committee

Donnelly P. McDonald, Chairman

James R. Fleming

C. C. Oberly

Harry Hogan

Publicity Committee

Lavern Gelow, Chairman

Helene Foellinger

Miller Ellingham

Paul Philips

Walter F. Hayes

Hilliard Gates

Mr. Suedhoff discussed the title "War Memorial Coliseum". All members present agreed that because this memorial is not a memorial to "war" but rather a memorial to veterans, the project hereafter would unofficially be known as the "Allen County Memorial Coliseum".

Later additions to the Coliseum Commission were representatives of various organizations including,

A. W. Kettler	Ft. Wayne Park Board
A. N. Smith	Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations
Noble Schlatter	Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations
Melvin Curtis	Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations
Robert Gaskill	Legislative Committee, Indiana American Legion
C. V. Kimmell	County Extension Service
P. E. Henebry	Allen County 4-H Clubs
Elmer Kolmerten	Allen County 4-H Clubs
Richard Blitz	President Allen County Council

It was announced that the Zollner Piston basketball team would play an exhibition benefit game with proceeds donated to the Memorial Coliseum project. This game against the Oshkosh All-Stars was played on March 24, 1946 and attended by 3,514 paid admissions. A check for $1,700.20 was received by the Commission from Carl Bennett representing the Zollner Pistons.

A benefit performance of "Lightnin" was given by the Fort Wayne Civic Theatre on March 29, 1946, with proceeds going to the Memorial Coliseum program.

The proceeds of the Inter Sorority-Fraternity benefit dance held on July 25, 1946 were donated to the Memorial Coliseum project.

3 1833 02606 8038

The Jaycees, civic leaders, and news media participated in the promotion of the benefit performances.

In late March 1946 a representative group of the Coliseum Commission met with members of Board of County Commissioners, Erven Knight, William Roussey and James Liggett. The plan for a Memorial Coliseum as a county financed facility was presented. The Commissioners went on record as favoring the idea of a Coliseum, however, they expressed a desire for public opinion regarding the project. They suggested a referendum on this matter be voted upon in the November election (See official action September 4, 1946).

The Coliseum Commission then officially requested that this question be placed on the November ballot.

THE SECOND F. ELLWOOD ALLEN REPORT

The Planning Committee requested further study and recommendations from the recreational consultant. An agreement was reached with F. Ellwood Allen for a second study of needs, interviews with individuals, clubs, and organizations for uses for the proposed building.

The contract fee with Mr. Allen was $1,500 for the preliminary study. If details, including sketches, a model, etc., were needed at this time the total fee would be $15,000.

On May 8, 1946 the Coliseum Commission received the following preliminary report.

Mr. Allen's recommendations call for the memorial to be constructed in several units as funds become available. The first would be the sports arena with a 10,000 seating capacity. Also included would be 4-H and an agricultural unit with barns and stables. The main building would require a recommended 15 acres, and the 4-H building another five acres.

Included in his recommendations for the first unit would be four organized parking areas of five acres each with space for 4,000 automobiles.

The second unit to be considered would be a large swimming pool with a bathers' play area of two acres.

The third unit would be a specially constructed auditorium with a seating capacity of 3,500 for music, opera, drama, forums and similar activities.

Mr. Allen also has recommended for inclusion in the general layout a 40-acre tract for an outdoor sports area.

"Since organized basketball is the principal indoor sport event, the capacity of the building must be determined by the demand for this activity," Mr. Allen stated. "The economic considerations require planning for the normal rather than the maximum spectator capacity. Certain events may attract as many as 20,000 spectators. Other events may draw only 3,000 or 4,000 spectators. It is our estimate that the normal attendance will not exceed 10,000. It is therefore recommended that the building be designed for a capacity of 10,000 spectators.

"Basketball, however, is not the sole function of this building. Other types of sports must be given consideration. It is recommended that in the design,

provision be made for extreme flexibility so that ice skating and hockey, boxing and wrestling, exhibition tennis and similar events can be adequately accommodated."

"In view of present economic and practical considerations and in spite of the difficult seating problem, accoustical and environmental factors, it is recommended that provision be made for a large portable stage within the major unit to be used for these specialized types of cultural activities and events."

Mr. Allen recommended the inclusion of a minimum of 16 bowling alleys with commensurate facilities; a swimming pool designed for year-round use with adequate provision for standard aquatic events and spectators; rooms for clubs, organization meetings and group activities; a kitchen designed to provide meals for large numbers of people; adequate locker, shower and dressing room facilities; and rooms for specialized uses such as a radio control, demonstration amphitheater, snack bars, etc.

Mr. Allen and William Bailey, planning engineer, considered more than a dozen sites for the proposed memorial, but recommended that the project be located on a 120-acre tract adjacent to the present Municipal Beach whereby the facilities of the beach could be tied in with the Memorial as well as the Johnny Appleseed grave site in the old Archer Cemetery.

Following the receipt of the Allen report, letters were received from many individuals, groups, and organizations endorsing the Memorial Coliseum plan and offering their assistance in this project.

The endorsements included,

Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations
American Legion Post #47
Fort Wayne Navy Club, Ship #48
Jim Eby Post #857, V.F.W.
David Parrish Post #296
Fort Wayne Federation of Labor
Allen County Board of Education
Fort Wayne Board of Realtors
Allen County Extension Service
Fort Wayne Civic Association
Young Mens' Christian Association
Fort Wayne Transportation Club
United Electrical, Radio, & Machine Workers
Fort Wayne Board of Park Commissioners
Northeastern Indiana Kennel Club
Fort Wayne Lions Club
Limberlost Legion of the Moose #18
Various Neighborhood Associations

Letters offering their cooperation were received from both Senator Samuel D.Jackson, and Congressman George W. Gillie,

(The endorsement from the Fort Wayne Federation of Labor included a recommendation that the seating capacity be no less than 20,000. Other recommendations were for at least 30,000 seats)

The Coliseum Commission accepted the Allen report and instructed the various committee chairmen to proceed with their activities in the areas of publicity, legislation, etc.

In August 1946 Robert L. Mace was elected President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

A letter was received from Angus McCoy, Taxpayers Research Association, advising that the bonds for construction of the Memorial Coliseum would require a tax levy of .02765 per hundred. This would mean that the cost to the average taxpayer is 55¢ per year. He later advised that an additional levy would be required to maintain and operate the facility.

Proposed Area Plan prepared by
F. Ellwood Allen.

DECLARATORY RESOLUTION #101

The official record of the Board of Allen County Commissioners, dated September 4, 1946, reads as follows,

COMMISSIONERS COURT, ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA, SEPTEMBER 4, 1946.

The Board of Commissioners Court of Allen County, Indiana, met in the Court House in the City of Fort Wayne, Indiana, on the 4th day of September, 1946, at 9:00 o'clock a.m.

PRESENT: A full Board and all the officers of same, there being present John A. Brewer, Auditor, William E. Roussey, James A. Liggett and Erven Knight.

In the matter of building a) Veterans Coliseum) COMMITTEE REQUESTED

Comes now a Committee consisting of Otto Adams, Mr. Myers, Chester Oberly, Donnelly McDonald and Harry Hogan, appointed by the Junior Chamber of Commerce and call upon the Board of Commissioners relative to the County constructing a Coliseum to be known as the Veterans Coliseum.

This Committee urged the Commissioners to take such legal action as is necessary to construct said building.

The Board after carefully considering the plan does not wish to assume all the responsibility of such project and deems it advisable that a referendum be had and that the citizens of Allen County vote upon same. Said Board of Allen County Commissioners does now direct the Election Board of Allen County, to place this proposition before the voters of Allen County, Indiana, in the election to be held on the 5th day of November 1946.

Motion in the above matter was made by James A. Liggett, seconded by Erven Knight and carried unanimously.

The official record dated September 10, 1946

reads, as follows,

In the matter of Resolution for War Memorial.) RESOLUTION No. 101

Motion made by James A. Liggett, seconded by Erven Knight and carried unanimously that the following resolution be approved;

DECLARATORY RESOLUTION No. 101

Be it resolved, by the Board of Commissioners of Allen County, that said County should proceed alone, or jointly with the City of Fort Wayne, located in such County, to carry out the purpose of the Acts of the General Assembly of 1921 - Chapter 245, "An Act entitled, An Act authorizing any County in the state of Indiana to acquire real estate and interest therein by purchase, donation or condemnation, and to erect and maintain thereon suitable structures to commemorate the valor and sacrifice of the soldiers, sailors and marines of the United States, of all patriotic organizations and all others who rendered loyal service and made sacrifices at home and overseas in the Great World War, and to provide a place or places for meetings and headquarters for organizations of such soldiers, sailors and marines and all other patriotic organizations and others, and for other public purposes, authorizing any County to join with any City which is located in such County, in the acquisition of such real estate and interest therein and the erection and maintenance of such memorial structures and to provide for the creation of a board of trustees, its powers and duties, and authorizing any such County to acquire or to join with any city located therein in the acquisition of grounds, real estate and interests therein, by purchase, donation or condemnation to be dedicated and set apart for World War Memorial and other public purposes and added to and used in connection with any real estate which may have been or may be hereafter designated for use or dedicated and set apart by the State of Indiana for World War Memorial and other public purposes; authorizing such County and such City jointly by proper contract, deed or grant to convey to the State of Indiana, the real estate so acquired for World War Memorial and other public purposes as provided therein and to provide for the levy of taxes and the issuance of bonds and the appropriation of money for said purposes; exempting the same from taxation and declaring an emergency," as supplemented by Chapter 112 of the Acts of 1945, entitled "An Act concerning memorials to the memory of the armed forces of the present war and declaring an emergency."

DECLARATORY RESOLUTION #101 was then placed on the

November 5, 1946 referendum ballot.

THE REFERENDUM CAMPAIGN

An intensive advertising and promotion campaign for use in connection with the November 1946 referendum was outlined by Publicity Chairman Lavern Gelow. He proposed a budget of $2,500 to cover the expenses in connection with this campaign which would be implemented by the Jaycees at the direction of the Coliseum Commission.

Letters dated September 25, 1946 were sent to a select group of individuals, businesses, and corporations explaining the Memorial Coliseum program and soliciting their financial support to cover the expenses for the referendum campaign.

Most recipients of these letters responded with total contributions of $2,740. This amount added to previous contributions totaled $4,775.20.

The beginning of the referendum campaign was a concentrated effort to get as many potential voters as possible to register for the November election. This was accomplished thru radio and newspaper stories - and person to person contact by Jaycees.

Following the registration deadline, Speakers Bureau Chairman Ramon Perry, organized a group of Jaycees to speak to many clubs and organizations including trade

unions and industrial groups. All types of information were provided, including the estimates of over-all costs, potential uses of the facility, the benefits to this community, and other related data regarding the Memorial Coliseum.

The firm of Gemmer and Associates was engaged to handle the detail work on publicity for the news media.

Radios, newspapers, and industrial newsletters were flooded with Memorial Coliseum information. Sports writers and editorial personnel were encouraged to use all possible material including the endorsements received earlier from many organizations.

Window cards, bus cards, billboards were used. Included were the sketches prepared by a local architect. Pamphlets and other hand-outs were distributed. Leaflets with the message "VOTE YES ON THE WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM" were thrown from an airplane flying over Fort Wayne and parts of Allen County. The aircraft was owned and operated by Jaycee Jack Kenny, assisted by Chet Schmidt.

Thousands of pin-on buttons in school colors were distributed to high school students. These buttons carried the message "We want the War Memorial Coliseum".

Well publicized during the campaign was a letter signed by Paul G. Jasper, Chairman, Democratic Central Committee, and Walter E. Helmke, Chairman, Republican Central Committee, "making it clear that the vote on War Memorial is NOT a political issue in the forthcoming election". They also endorsed the construction of the Coliseum, and urged all voters vote "yes" on the important question on election day.

On election eve, November 4, 1946, the campaign was climaxed by a gala torchlight parade through downtown streets. Bands, floats, and marching Jaycees drew a great amount of attention to the Memorial Coliseum referendum.

On election day Jaycees manned positions at most of the polling places in Allen County. All distributed hand-bills and urged voters to vote "yes" on the question, "ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF THE RESOLUTION NO. 1 FOR THE BUILDING OF AN ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM".

Here Is a Message for Every Voter in Allen County

October 24, 1946

TO ALL ALLEN COUNTY CITIZENS:

As Chairmen of our Central Committees we wish to make it clear that the vote on the War Memorial is NOT a political issue in the forthcoming election.

We know for a fact that both the Republican and Democratic parties have been represented in the preliminary planning and development of this worthy civic project.

Speaking as the Chairmen of our respective parties, we are glad to lend the endorsement of our party to Resolution 101 toward the construction of a County War Memorial Coliseum and to urge that ALL Democrats and Republicans vote "Yes" on this important question on election day.

Paul G. Jasper
Chairman
Democratic Central Committee

Walter E. Helmke
Chairman
Republican Central Committee

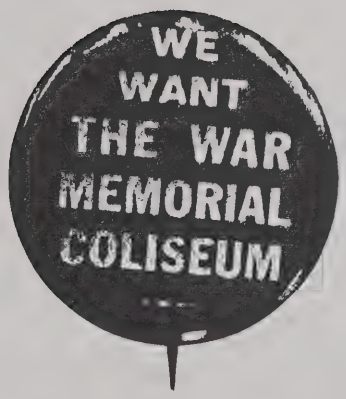
NOTE—What will it cost? Only 55c is the average taxpayer's annual cost. It will indirectly benefit every person—young and old. Fort Wayne will be able to attract hockey, inside circuses, agricultural shows, large automobile displays, basketball tournaments now going to Muncie, have year 'round ice skating, etc. Other benefits—it will reduce delinquency—improve health.

VOTE YES

ON THE WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM ★ ★ ★

VOTE TO BUILD A LIVING MEMORIAL TO OUR ALLEN COUNTY WAR HEROES

DO NOT FORGET TO VOTE ON THIS RESOLUTION



Sample of badges in school colors
distributed to high school students.

October 1946

RECEIPTS:

(Prior to Campaign)		
Lavern E. Gelow - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	10.00	
Zollner Players Club - - - - - - - - - - -	1,700.20	
City Firemans Union Local #124 - - - - -	25.00	
Fort Wayne Civic Theatre, Inc. - - - - -	50.00	$1,785.20
(During Campaign)		
David Parrish Post No. 296 American Legion-	15.00	
Wolf and Dessauer - - - - - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Ft.Wayne Navy Club Ship No. 48 - - - - -	25.00	
Horton Manufacturing Co.- - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Berghoff Brewing Corporation - - - - - -	100.00	
Hoff Brau Brewing Corporation - - - - - -	100.00	
Joslyn Manufacturing & Supply Co. - - - -	100.00	
James R. Fleming - - - - - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Bowser, Inc. - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Magnavox Company - - - - - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Tokheim Oil Tank & Pump Co. - - - - - - -	100.00	
Peoples Trust & Savings Co. - - - - - - -	100.00	
Standard Lumber & Supply Co. - - - - - -	25.00	
Phelps Dodge Corporation - - - - - - - -	50.00	
H. G. Hogan - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Indiana Service Corporation - - - - - - -	100.00	
Fort Wayne National Bank - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Fruehauf Trailer Company - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Lincoln National Bank & Trust Co. - - - -	100.00	
Home Telephone & Telegraph Company- - - -	100.00	
Truck Engineering Company - - - - - - - -	25.00	
Centlivre Brewing Corporation - - - - - -	100.00	
Allen County Republican Central Committee-	100.00	
Journal-Gazette Company - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Fishmans - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -	50.00	
Sears Roebuck & Company - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Central Soya Company, Inc. - - - - - - -	100.00	
Wayne Pump Company - - - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
Farnsworth Television & Radio Corp. - - -	100.00	
News-Sentinal - - - - - - - - - - - - -	100.00	
International Harvester Company - - - - -	100.00	$2,690.00
Total Collected-		$4,475.20

Collected November 29, 1946:

Peter Eckrich & Sons - - - - - - - - - - -	50.00	
Collected during Campaign		$2,740.00
Total Collected-		$4,525.20
Inter Fraternity-Sorority Council - - - -		250.00
Total-		$4,775.20

November 1946

EXPENDITURES:

News Publishing Company	$21.00	
Newman Studio	17.50	
Journal-Gazette Company	27.50	
F. Ellwood Allen, Park and Recreation Planner	1,800.00	
Doubleday Bros. & Company	36.83	
Crescent Engraving Company	5.46	
Newnam Sales & Letter Service	6.56	
The Calhoun Press	57.50	
Lincoln Reproductions	153.50	
Julius J. Stein	315.37	
Don Myers	34.80	
The Calhoun Press	100.00	
The Brinkman Corp.	75.00	
Fort Wayne Engraving Company	9.54	
New Process Corporation	77.83	
Arnold Gemmer and Associates	102.84	
James Ellsworth	12.90	
Louis E. Wade, Inc.	341.83	
Chamber of Commerce	15.00	
Carl J. Suedhoff Advertising	339.44	
John W. Kenny	7.35	
Mrs. Donahue	5.00	
Mr. G. Bundy	5.00	
Herb Huguenard	5.00	
Dolores Brown	5.00	
Gerow Cabler	5.00	
Bank Service Charge	.50	
Total Expenditures		$3,583.25

Total Collected	$4,475.20
Total Expenditures	3,583.25
Balance 11/25/46	$ 891.95

ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES:

The Calhoun Press	54.00	
Aubrey W. Kellogg, Jr.	4.05	
Total Expenditures		$3,641.30

Total Collected	$4,525.20
Total Expenditures	3,641.30
Balance 12/2/46	$ 883.90

REFERENDUM RESULTS

From County Commissioners record -

November 9, 1946

In a matter of a report on Resolution #101 -

War Memorial.

Report on Resolution #101 War Memorial "The Allen County Election Board reports that there were 25,705 "yes" votes and 5,720 "no" votes regarding the above resolution for the War Memorial Coliseum. (Are you in favor of the Allen County Commissioners Declaratory Resolution #101 for the building of an Allen County War Memorial Coliseum)."

The overall five to one approval of the referendum is the greatest majority ever recorded on a referendum in Allen County. Precinct 23A voting in Roumanian Hall recorded 195 votes for and 4 votes against. Only two precincts voted against the proposal.

Without a doubt more time and effort on the part of the Jaycees went into this project than ever before by this organization.

A total of $3,641.30 was spent on this campaign. A breakdown of these costs is shown on the previous page.

As a result of the impressive approval of the referendum, the Memorial Coliseum project was placed in the hands of the Allen County County Commissioners.

STATE OF INDIANA
SS: CERTIFICATION 12-16-48
COUNTY OF ALLEN

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that according to the Official Election Returns of Allen County, Indiana, of the election held on November 5, 1946, as certified to by the County Canvassing Board and the County Board of Election Commissioners, which certification includes the returns on the Resolution for the "WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM", the final vote is as follows:

FOR	25,705
AGAINST	5,720

I, ELTON L. MARQUART, CLERK of the ALLEN CIRCUIT COURT, and Ex-Officio member of the Allen County Board of Election Commissioners, do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be the true and exact vote on the "WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM" resolution, as same remains of record in the Official Election Records in my office.

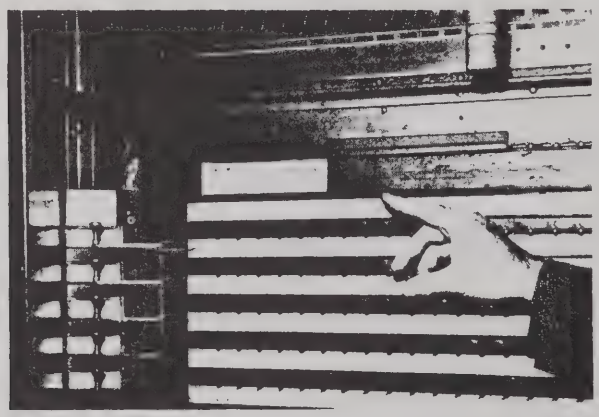
WITNESS my hand and seal, this 16th day of December, A. D., 1948.

Elton L. Marquart
CLERK OF ALLEN CIRCUIT COURT
and Ex-Officio Member of the
Allen County Board of Election
Commissioners.

ACTION

Fort Wayne Junior Chamber of Commerce, Fort Wayne, Ind., October, 1946

JAYCEES WIN GRAND SLAM AT THE POLLS



With one polling place endorsing the Memorial project 49 to 1, and with the over-all endorsement 5 to 1, there is not much doubt in anyone's mind, now, that Allen County likes the Jaycee-sponsored War Memorial Coliseum. The final count was 25,705 yes to 5,720 no votes. Even the county precincts went all-out for the Memorial.

Only two of the 89 voting places had more total votes registered against the idea than for it. One of these, located in Fort Wayne, at 1225 East Wayne Street, cast 27 yes and 61 no votes. The other, Scipio township, had only 26 votes in favor while 69 voted against the project.

So far, your Jaycee Memorial committee has been unable to find a single prior referendum that pulled a yes vote in county voting. Local politicians, the local papers, and old-timers are unable to recall a single case of a winning vote on previous elections.

Those precincts with a 8 to 1 or better vote include No. 10 Rudisill School, No. 23A Roumania Hall, No. 24 at 1511 Taylor Street, and No. 40 McCulloch School.

Those polling places showing a vote of 6 to 1 or better included the following:

(Continued on page 6)

HOUSE BILL #131 (1947)

In January 1947 Paul Philips reviewed the 1921 law referred to earlier. After the first World War a law was passed by the Indiana State Legislature permitting counties to erect and maintain suitable structures to commemorate the valor and sacrifice of soldiers, sailors, and marines in the Great World War (World War I).

The law further permits counties to issue bonds for this purpose to a maximum of one-half of one percent of total property value of the county. The 1947 property value of Allen County of $284,567,930 would permit a bonding maximum of approximately $1,422,000.

In order to clarify this act and allow Allen County to proceed, HB #131 was prepared by Mr. Philips. This would amend the 1921 Act to commemorate those who served in both World Wars I and II. This would also authorize the acquisition of real estate, employment of an architect, and other personnel as deemed necessary.

Through the efforts of Robert Gaskill, Chairman of the legislative committee of the Indiana American Legion, The American Legion agreed to sponsor this legislation in the 1947 legislative session.

This bill was passed and signed into law by Governor Ralph Gates on March 17, 1947.

SELECTION OF THE ARCHITECT

In a meeting of the Coliseum Commission on March 3, 1947, attended by County Commissioners, Erven Knight, James Liggett, and William Roussey, the County Commissioners expressed their appreciation to the organization for its progress so far and asked that this group and the Jaycees continue to offer advise and suggestions as in the past.

At the request of the County Commissioners, both local and national architects were interviewed by the Coliseum Commission. These interviews began with the meeting of June 2, 1947 and continued thru the meeting of August 11, 1947. All who requested interviews were heard by the Coliseum Commission, as follows,

June 2, 1947	A. M. Strauss, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
June 9, 1947	Shoaff & Proctor, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
June 16, 1947	Associated Engineers, Ft.Wayne, Ind.
June 21, 1947	LeRoy Bradley, Ft. Wayne, Ind.
June 21, 1947	Vernem & Hammond, Chicago, Ill. in association with Albert Heeter, Ft. Wayne,Ind.
July 21, 1947	Skidmore, Owings & Merrill, Chicago, Ill. in association with Pohlmeyer & Pohlmeyer, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

July 29, 1947	Saarinen, Swanson & Saarinen, Detroit, Mich.
August 4, 1947	Louis C. Kingscott & Associates, Jackson, Mich.
August 11, 1947	Holabird & Root, Chicago, Ill.

Following the interviews with the architectural firms a committee was appointed to study the architectural question and report to the full Coliseum Commission. This committee included Paul Philips, Chairman, C. C. Oberly, Donnelly P. McDonald, Carl Suedhoff, Otto Adams, Ramon Perry, Lavern Gelow, Hilliard Gates and Don Myers.

Chairman Philips' report dated August 15, 1947 advises that the committee recommends the firm of Saarinen, Swanson & Saarinen, Detroit, Michigan in association with Pohlmeyer & Pohlmeyer, Ft. Wayne, Ind. The report further recommends that F. Ellwood Allen be retained as recreational planner on the project.

The Coliseum Commission accepted this report in its meeting of August 18, 1947 and moved to forward this information to the County Commissioners. A letter of August 20, 1947 addressed to the County Commissioners relays the action of the Coliseum Commission in recommending an architect.

On August 29, 1947, seven days after receiving the letter of recommenation, a local newspaper reported that the County Commissioners had entered a contract with A. M. Strauss for the Memorial Coliseum architectural work.

A meeting of the Coliseum Commission was immediately called for September 2, 1947.

Members of the Coliseum Commission were appalled to find that after nearly three months of interviews with architects, the County Commissioners had ignored the recommendation which they had earlier requested. Failure to consult with the Coliseum Commission before announcing their decision in the news media led some members to believe that the choice was preconceived.

Mr. McDonald reported that in view of the County Commissioners action he saw no reason for continuance of the Coliseum Commission and submitted his oral resignation with a letter to follow. Mr. Oberly spoke in agreement with Mr. McDonald and also submitted his resignation. Mr. Curtis submitted his resignation at the same time. A motion to dissolve the Coliseum Commission was defeated. Others spoke in behalf of the continuation of the Coliseum Commission regardless of the County Commissioners action, and that the community best be served by the continuation of this group.

An effort was made to get a committment from the County Commissioners was unsuccessful. They asked that the group continue in an advisory capacity.

Mr. Fleming suggested that the Coliseum Commission continue to act for the following reasons,

1. That they have a responsibility to the community for having originated this project.
2. The group represented in the Commission has a good cross section of the interest of local citizens.
3. Due to the study and time spent by all members of the commission on this project, they are qualified to contribute much to its success.

A motion to continue the Coliseum Commission was successful.

SELECTING THE SITE

An investigation revealed that the property on California Road at Parnell Avenue, which was recommended in the Allen Report, was owned by Wm. T. McKay and Cletus Snyder.

Some concern was shown regarding recommending this site for the Memorial Coliseum to the County Commissioners without considering other potential sites. Some thought that Mr. Allen should be retained to proceed with the second phase of his proposed study at the cost of $15,000., to be paid by the County Commissioners. The County Commissioners advised that Mr. Allen probably would recommend the McKay site, and that there was no money allocated to cover the cost of this survey.

Meanwhile Mr. McKay had been contacted regarding the availability of the property. He advised that he was in favor of the Memorial Coliseum program and would make the site available, the cost to be determined by an independant appraisal. A similar discussion was held with Mr. Snyder. This site would encompass the site bounded by Parnell Avenue on the west, California Road on the north, and the Old Wabash & Erie Feeder Canal on the east and south, with the exception of the Johnny Appleseed Park.

The Coliseum Commission and County Officials were advised that rights thru this property had been granted to the Indiana State Highway Commission for construction of the circumurban highway.

The construction of this highway would aid in handling traffic to and from the Memorial Coliseum, therefore would add to the value of this as a potential site.

On May 19, 1947 the Coliseum Commission voted to "go on record approving and favoring the acquisition of the McKay property for the Coliseum".

In a meeting on July 14, 1947 formal action of the Coliseum Commission recommended to the County Commissioners that they acquire the McKay property for the Memorial Coliseum. A copy of this resolution was forwarded to the County Commissioners.

Consideration was given to the purchase of the Davies property which is immediately south of the Johnny Appleseed Park. This would give the City of Fort Wayne and Allen County ownership of the property bounded by Parnell Avenue, California Road, and the St. Joseph River. This proposal was later dropped because of lack of funds.

On July 15, 1947 the County Commissioners petitioned the County Council for a loan of $100,000 from the School Fund for the purpose of purchasing real estate, and for miscellaneous expenses in connection with the building of the Memorial Coliseum. This request was granted on September 19, 1947, the loan to be repaid on September 19, 1950, at the interest rate of 4%.

In August 1947 Andrew J. O'Dwyer was elected President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

On September 24, 1947 an appraisal of the McKay property was made. This property consisted of 77.17 acres, bounded on the west by Parnell Avenue and extending from the California Road south to the Old Wabash & Erie Feeder Canal. This area includes the Johnny Appleseed Park, which consists of 14.87 acres. The appraisal of the Coliseum site was based on 62.30 acres at five hundred dollars per acre or $31,150.

On October 20, 1947, a deed for this property was signed by William T. and Ruth McKay and recorded on November 29, 1947, (Book 398, pages 10-11).

The Johnny Appleseed Park was donated to Allen County by the McKay family at the same time. A separate deed for this property was signed by William T. and Ruth McKay and recorded on November 29, 1947, (Book 398, page 11).

On January 17, 1948, the Snyder property was appraised for $20,000. This area of 19.67 acres is immediately east of the McKay property and extends to the Old Wabash and Erie Feeder Canal on the east and south.

A deed was signed on January 17, 1948 by Cletus and Opal Snyder and recorded on the same date (Book 398, page 376). Therefore, the total cost of the Memorial Coliseum real estate was $51,150.

OFFICE OF **A. K. HOFER**
CIVIL ENGINEER—FORT WAYNE

Month January 15, 1941 192

Registered as provided in Chapter 169, of Acts 72nd General Assembly, State of Indiana

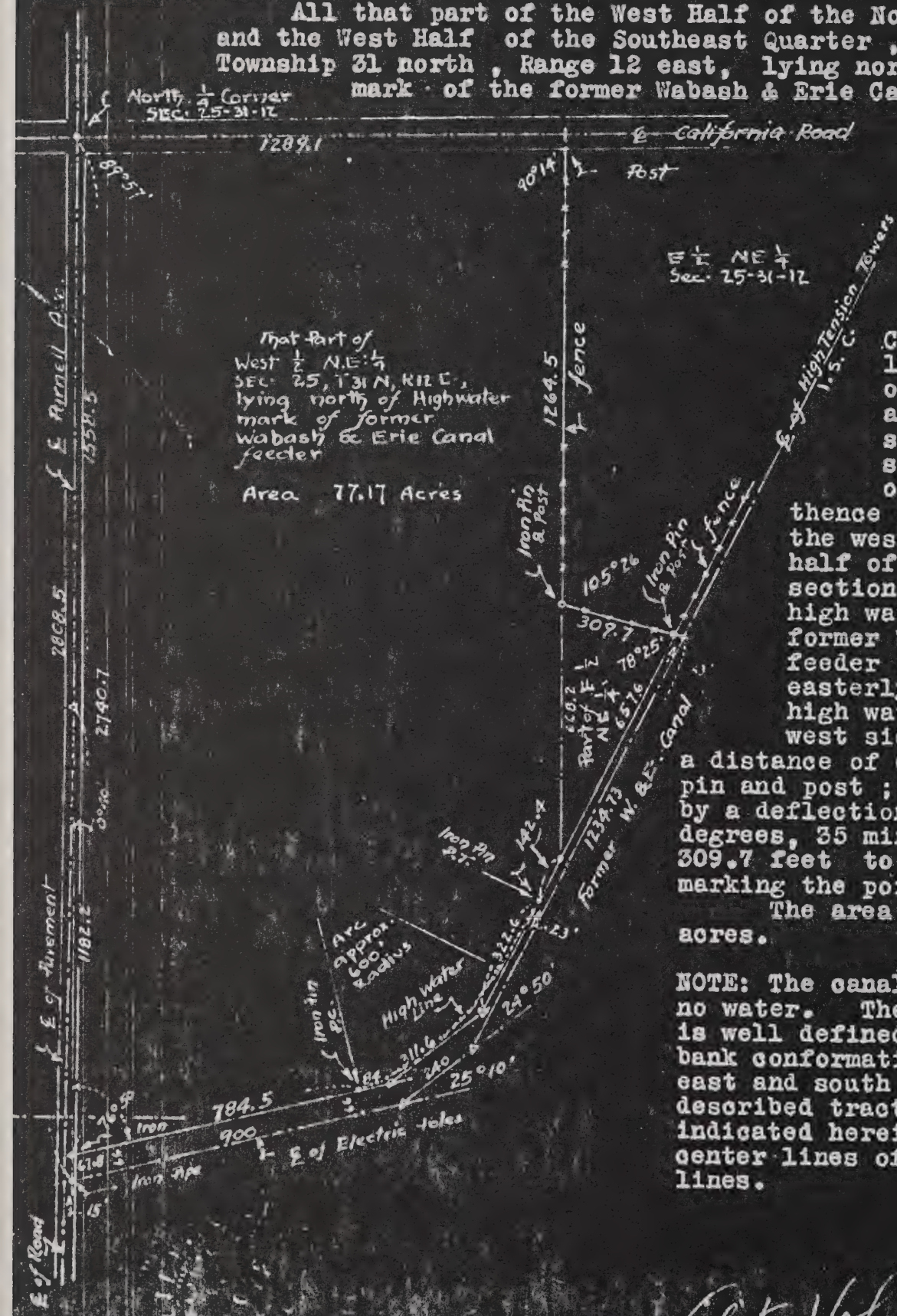
This document is the record of a resurvey of land and real estate situated in the ~~City of Fort Wayne~~, Allen County, Indiana, made in accordance with the plat and deed record thereof on file in the Office of Recorder of said County and State. The land below described exists in full dimension as herein noted in feet, and is free from encroachments by adjoining landowners, and furthermore, contains entirely within its boundaries the structures of the buildings on it situated; all as below indicated in detail. Any exceptions or discrepancies are below noted.

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY, Lot No. (See below) Addition, Block

All that part of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter, and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter, of Section 25, Township 31 north, Range 12 east, lying north of the high water mark of the former Wabash & Erie Canal Feeder; also, a part of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 25, aforesaid, described by metes and bounds, as follows; towit; a triangular tract. Commencing on the west line of the east half of the northeast quart aforesaid, at a point situated 1264.5 feet south of the north lin of said quarter sectio thence continuing south on the west line of the east h half of the said quarter section, 668.2 feet to the high water mark of the former Wabash & Erie Canal feeder; thence northeasterly on and along the high water line on the west side of the said canal, a distance of 657.6 feet to an iron pin and post; thence northwesterl by a deflection angle left, 101 degrees, 35 minutes, a distance of 309.7 feet to an iron pin and post marking the point of beginning;

The area described is 77.17 acres.

NOTE: The canal referred to contain no water. The former water mark is well defined by vegetation and bank conformation. Position of th east and south boundaries of the described tracts, is definitely indicated herein, relative to the center lines of the existing power lines.



Signed C. K. Hofer

New Sign Marks Site of Coliseum

Don Myers, chairman of the War Memorial Coliseum Commission, and Jaycee member Vern Gelow (pointing), inspect the site for the Coliseum. The sign, erected by the Jaycees at the intersection of Parnell Ave. extended and the new Circumurban Highway, will serve as marker for the site until the project is completed. It is expected that bids for the Coliseum will be asked in about a month. (News-Sentinel Photo)

INSPECTION OF OTHER ARENAS

On October 9, 10, and 11, 1947 County Commissioners Knight, Liggett and Roussey, together with County Attorney Lee Hartzell, Don Myers, and Architect Strauss made an inspection trip of arenas at Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Rochester, Minnesota.

A similar inspection trip of facilities in St. Louis and Kansas City were made by County Commissioners, County Attorney, Lavern Gelow, and Joe Hulfeld of the Strauss firm.

On May 13, 1948, three members of the New Building Consulting Board representing the International Association of Auditorium Managers met with the Architect and County Officials regarding plans for the Memorial Coliseum. These representatives were Burt Wellborne, Charles Bauer, and Nathan Podoloff.

During the summer of 1948 the Circumurban Highway was constructed through the Memorial Coliseum property. It was known as Highway #324. County Officials were aware of the proposed construction when the property was acquired.

On several occasions Coliseum Commission Chairman Don Myers appeared before the Allen County County Council advising them regarding the progress of the Memorial Coliseum program.

On July 29, 1948, Don Myers was appointed to the Allen County Council to fill the vacancy created by the death of a Councilman. As a Councilman, Mr. Myers used all opportunities to expedite the progress of the Memorial Coliseum. (In November 1949, he was elected to a full four year term on the County Council).

In late September 1948, the Coliseum Commission appointed a committee of clergymen to work with Architect Strauss in planning practical application of a memorial theme to the structure. This committee consisted of Rev. P. D. Hale, Rev. Walter Klausing, Rabbi Joseph Gorfinkel, Rev. Robert McDanel, Rev. Robert Hoevel, and Rev. George Wood.

In August 1948 Chester W. Schmidt was elected President of Junior Chamber of Commerce.

In the election of 1948 Erven Knight and James Liggett lost their bid for re-election to the office of County Commissioners.

On January 1, 1949 they were replaced by Theodore Goeglein and Charles Freiburger. William Roussey remained a a hold-over Commissioner and J. Robert McDonald was appointed County Attorney.

The new County Commissioners advised that they were in favor of building a Memorial Coliseum and asked for the support of the Coliseum Commission.

HOUSE BILL #178 (1949)

By early 1949 architectural plans were progressing, real estate had been purchased, and other costs obligated, it became apparent that the available bonding power was insufficient to cover the estimated cost of the Coliseum.

A 1919 Act of the Indiana Legislature provided for counties to build "suitable memorials for soldiers and sailors of the War fought by the United States against Germany and Austria-Hungary, to levy taxes, and provide for control, management, and maintenance of such memorial". This also set a maximum bonding limit of two percent of the property valuation.

With amendments, this Act of 1919 seemed much more suitable for use in Allen County. It would broaden the scope and provide for memorials for all members of the armed forces who served in either the first or second World War. It would also permit a bonding limit to two percent of valuation.

Again Paul Philips was called upon to prepare amendment to this act to make it a memorial to all members of the armed forces.

House Bill #178 was enacted and signed by Governor Henry F. Schricker in March 1949.

MEMORIAL COLISEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPOINTED

On June 9, 1949 the Board of Commissioners took the necessary steps to continue the Memorial Coliseum program under the 1919 Acts as amended by House Bill #178.

The Act provided for appointment of a five member Memorial Coliseum Board of Trustees, three by the County Commissioners (not more than two of the same political party), and two members by the Circuit Court Judge (one of each political party).

The following were appointed by the County Commissioners,

Alfred L. Randall, Democrat,
thru first Monday of 1950.

Chester V. Kimmel, Democrat,
thru first Monday of 1951.

Ramon S. Perry, Republican,
thru first Monday of 1952.

The following were appointed by Circuit Court Judge William Schannen,

Otto H. Adams, Republican,
thru first Monday of 1953.

James R. Fleming, Democrat,
thru first Monday of 1953.

The terms are staggered so that all do not expire in any one year. All terms are for four years.

In the County Commissioners record of June 9, 1949, County Commissioner Goeglein objects to House Bill #178 which permits bonding the county to a maximum of two percent of County valuation instead of the one half percent maximum in the previous legislative act, which was in force when the referendum on the Memorial Coliseum was voted upon. Mr. Goeglein would approve a bond issue of no more than $3,000,000.

In their first meeting on June 14, 1949 the newly appointed Memorial Coliseum Board elected the following officers,

President	-	Chester V. Kimmel
Vice President	-	James R. Fleming
Secretary	-	Otto H. Adams
Treasurer	-	Alfred L. Randall
Member	-	Ramon S. Perry.

In the next meeting of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Perry pointed out that the contract with Architect Strauss was signed by the County Commissioners based on the 1921 Act and that the resolution was passed to operate on the 1919 Act, a new contract should be made with Mr. Strauss. A revised contract was signed by the Memorial Coliseum Board of Trustees on June 30, 1949, and by the County Commissioners July 2, 1949.

The Coliseum Board then went on record requesting the County Commissioners proceed with the legal steps necessary to issue bonds in the amount of $3,000,000.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce under the leadership of Co-Chairman Hilliard Gates and Paul Philips, assumed the responsibility for circulating petitions required for the bond issue. Again all Jaycees participated in this effort and soon thousands of petitions were presented to the County Commissioners to initiate the steps in securing the funds.

On July 28, 1949 the County Commissioners passed a resolution requesting the County Council to appropriate $3,000,000 for the Memorial Coliseum. On August 9, 1949 County Councilman Don Myers made the motion to appropriate the funds in the amount of $3,000,000.

In August 1949 Herbert Meyer was elected President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

SPECIFICATIONS, BIDS, AND AWARDS

In August 1949, Architect Strauss met with Lyle Wright, owner of the Minneapolis Arena; Virgil Gladieux and W. E. Tolford, owner and architect respectively of the Toledo Sports Arena, to review the plans and specifications for the Memorial Coliseum.

Final blueprints called for a 10,000 seat sports arena with a 200' x 85' ice floor, a 50,000 sq. ft. exhibit hall, and an outstanding Memorial Hall. Also, included were concession stands, restrooms, storage areas, and a surfaced parking area for 2,000 cars.

Plans were drawn purposely with alternates to determine what could be included with available funds. The alternates included completing the Exhibition Hall and completion of the ice floor.

On October 21, 1949 specifications were advertised for bids. Thirteen general contractors requested specifications for bidding purposes.

On December 14, 1949 the following bids were received,

GENERAL CONTRACT

Hagerman Construction Corp.	$1,850,666
Wermuth, Inc.	1,915,684
John Dehner, Inc.	1,969,000
Johnson-Drake & Piper Corp.	2,098,000

PLUMBING, HEATING

Hosler-Pearson Co.	$306,989
Hipskind Htg. & Plg. Co.	311,000
P. B. Arnold	345,833
Schwegmen-Witte Co.	363,000
M. J. Carboy	380,000
Industrial Piping	410,000

ELECTRICAL

Lyman Electric Co.	$157,964
Central Electric	160,425
Dix Kelley	164,446
Moorhead Electric	168,820
P. B. Arnold	183,942

SEWER

John Dehner, Inc.	$ 31,550
May Construction Co.	39,862
Weikel Construction Co.	41,769
Coil Construction Co.	44,975
Barney Massy Construction Co.	48,987

ICE FLOOR

Buildice Company	$ 89,657
Frick Company	98,400
Hosler & Pearson	103,589
Bird's Ice Machine Company	109,197

SEATING	
Peabody Seating	$ 49,820
Ideal Seating Company	61,990
Haywood Wakefield	63,000
American Seating Company	68,951

ELEVATOR	
Warner Elevator Company	$ 11,790
Houghton Elevator Inc.	15,531
Otis Elevator Company	15,937
Gallagher & Speck	15,986
Home Elevator Company	17,767

LOCKERS	
Don White Company	$ 1,929

Following the opening of the bids, and at the request of the Board of Trustees, Minneapolis Arena President Lyle Z. Wright met again with the Board of Trustees and the Architect. Mr. Wright was engaged to consult with them and draw on his practical experience in management as well as his knowledge in construction of public arenas.

After careful study of the bids and alternates, the following awards were made on December 30, 1949, subject to the issuance of the bonds.

#1	General Contract Hagerman Construction Corp.	$1,959,921.00
#2-3	Plumbing & Heating Hipskind Htg. & Plg. Co.	340,504.00
#4	Electrical Lyman Electric Co.	174,009.00
#5	Sewers John Dehner, Inc.	31,550.80
#6	Ice Floor Buidice, Inc.,	89,657.00
#7	Seating Peabody Seating Co.	49,820.20
#8	Press Box (Eliminated)	
#9	Lockers Don White Co.	1,929.00
		$2,647,390.00

The balance of the funds was earmarked for equipment and contingencies.

(The Hagerman Construction Corporation general contract includes the base bid of $1,858,000.00, plus the alternates of $61,347.00 for the completion of the Exhibit Hall and $39,908.00 for the completion of the ice floor, for a total of $1,959,921.00)

$3,000,000 Bond Issue

January 1, 1950 Emmett Harper replaced William Roussey on the Board of County Commissioners.

Alfred L. Randall was reappointed to the Memorial Coliseum Board of Trustees for a four year term, beginning January 1950.

Having sufficient petitions for the bond issue, in early January specifications were prepared and advertised for bids for the $3,000,000 issue. On January 18, 1950 the award was made to the First National Bank & Associates of Chicago at a rate of one and one-half percent. Allen County's Triple A Credit Rating and a long record of maximum tax collections prompted a premium of $27,445.

The issue consisted of three thousand bonds in $1,000 denominations. County Commissioners Goeglein, Freiburger, and Harper spent four days affixing their signatures to the bonds.

ALLEN COUNTY, INDIANA

WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM BONDS

DATES	PRINCIPAL	INTEREST	ANNUALLY
1951 - JULY 1	$ 75,000.00	$ 63,750.00	$ 138,750.00
1952 JAN. 1	75,000.00	21,937.50	
JULY 1	75,000.00	21,375.00	193,312.50
1953 JAN. 1	75,000.00	20,812.50	
JULY 1	75,000.00	20,250.00	191,062.50
1954 JAN. 1	75,000.00	19,687.50	
JULY 1	75,000.00	19,125.00	188,812.50
1955 JAN. 1	75,000.00	18,562.50	
JULY 1	80,000.00	18,000.00	191,562.50
1956 JAN. 1	80,000.00	17,400.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	16,800.00	194,200.00
1957 JAN. 1	80,000.00	16,200.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	15,600.00	191,800.00
1958 JAN. 1	80,000.00	15,000.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	14,400.00	189,400.00
1959 JAN. 1	80,000.00	13,800.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	13,200.00	187,000.00
1960 JAN. 1	80,000.00	12,600.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	12,000.00	184,600.00
1961 JAN. 1	80,000.00	11,400.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	10,800.00	182,200.00
1962 JAN. 1	80,000.00	10,200.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	9,600.00	179,800.00
1963 JAN. 1	80,000.00	9,000.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	8,400.00	177,400.00
1964 JAN. 1	80,000.00	7,800.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	7,200.00	175,000.00
1965 JAN. 1	80,000.00	6,600.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	6,000.00	172,600.00
1966 JAN. 1	80,000.00	5,400.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	4,800.00	170,200.00
1967 JAN. 1	80,000.00	4,200.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	3,600.00	167,800.00
1968 JAN. 1	80,000.00	3,000.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	2,400.00	165,400.00
1969 JAN. 1	80,000.00	1,800.00	
JULY 1	80,000.00	1,200.00	163,000.00
1970 JAN. 1	80,000.00	600.00	80,600.00
TOTALS:	$3,000,000.00	$484,500.00	$3,484,500.00

$3,000,000 - 1½% Bonds - Dated February 1, 1950.

$ 75,000 due each 6 months, starting July 1, 1951, to and including January 1, 1955. $80,000 due each 6 months starting July 1, 1955, and ending January 1, 1970.

First coupon - $21.25; Remaining Coupons - $7.50.

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY

On January 24, 1950 construction of the Memorial Coliseum officially began with the ground breaking ceremony. In attendance were members of the Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations, Allen County Officials, Members of the Memorial Coliseum Board of Trustees, Junior Chamber of Commerce Members, and members of the contractor's and architectural firms.

Representatives of these organizations participated in a short ceremony.

During the following weeks and months construction continued at a rapid pace. The Board of Trustees met frequently answering many contractors questions regarding types of material to be used, colors, sizes, parking lot, landscaping, etc. Many communications were received from individuals and organizations making suggestions and recommendations. The Members of the Coliseum Board spent many hours sorting out the requests and ideas.

To provide city water service to the Memorial Coliseum a contract was signed with the City of Fort Wayne to extend a water main at the cost of $19,272.26.

An agreement was reached with Indiana & Michigan Electric Company to provide electric power to the Memorial Coliseum.

Upon the recommendation of the Architect, it was agreed that coal would be the most economical method of heating.

At the request of the Board of Trustees, the Architect prepared specifications for equipment, including a basketball floor and backstops, boxing ring, portable seating, public address system, electric organ, landscaping equipment, etc.

Revised specifications were prepared and a change order issued to reinstate a portion of the press box which had been eliminated earlier from the general contract.

On August 31, 1950 County Commissioner Charles Freiburger died, and was replaced by Arthur J. Byall for the remainder of Mr. Freiburger's term.

In August 1950 Robert K. Shimel was elected President of Junior Chamber of Commerce.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES 1951

In January 1951 Chester V. Kimmel was reappointed to the Memorial Coliseum Board of Trustees for a four year term. J. Robert Arnold was appointed County Attorney.

Request for information and dates in the Memorial Coliseum began to arrive. A need for an executive staff became apparent. On August 1, 1951 Don Myers was appointed to the position of Manager of the Memorial Coliseum. He, then, resigned from the County Council.

Construction continued on schedule. The cornerstone was placed at the west entrance near Parnell Avenue on November 16, 1951. A brief ceremony included participation by County officials and representatives of the Veterans Organizations. Placed on the cornerstone were copies of the January 26, 1950 News Sentinel and Journal Gazette which carried the story of the groundbreaking, a short history of the development of the Memorial Coliseum, a list of contractors, a list of Allen County Officials, and Officers of the Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations. The copper box was sealed by Paul G. Gronauer, originator of the Memorial Coliseum project for the Jaycees.

In August 1951 Dale Houts was elected President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

CONSTRUCTION CONTINUES 1952

In January 1952 Sam Cook and Erven Knight replaced County Commissioners Theodore Goeglein and Arthur Byall.

In January 1952 the term of Memorial Coliseum Board of Trustees Member Ramon S. Perry expired. He was replaced by Ellison L. Meier, Jr. for a four year term. J. Robert Arnold was named Memorial Coliseum Attorney.

Because of the Korean conflict the shortage of some materials slowed the building progress. Completion of the Coliseum was delayed on several occasions. However, on Memorial Day 1952, with the basic building complete and the flag pole in place, a flag raising ceremony was scheduled. This event was conducted by the Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations, Robert G. Bradfield, president, presiding.

The need for a building superintendent became evident. This would require a person with knowledge of boilers and refrigeration. The purpose of employing at this time was to observe the installation, and to become acquainted with the operation and maintenance of the mechanical equipment in the building.

Lawrence W. Schaefer was named Building Superintendent of the Memorial Coliseum effective June 1, 1952.

It was determined that additional funds would be required to complete the parking lots and other construction. On June 18, 1952 County officials approved a loan of $125,000 from the school fund, to be repaid from the regular tax levy.

A contract in the amount of $111,368 was awarded to John Dehner, Inc., for further preparation and surfacing of the parking lot.

At the same time it was agreed that a parking fee of 25¢ would be charged for the area nearest to the Coliseum, and free parking on the lower lot. (Because of the operating costs free parking was discontinued soon after the Coliseum opened.)

On August 21, 1952 Chester Kimmel resigned his membership on the Coliseum Board of Trustees and was replaced by Elmer Kolmerten.

In August 1952 William A. Tucker was elected President of the Junior Chamber of Commerce.

By early fall 1952 the structure was nearly complete. A permanent and part time staff was employed. On September 22, 1952 William Kerr was employed as Memorial Coliseum Auditor.

A full season of activities was scheduled, including Piston basketball, Komet hockey, Holiday On Ice, Shrine Circus, Jaycees Home Show, Harlem Globetrotters, and many varied stage attractions.

On July 14, 1952 a one year contract was signed with Zollner Machine Works, Inc., for an exclusive rights to professional basketball (Zollner Pistons), an exclusive for ice shows, and for various stage attractions without exclusive.

On August 14, 1952 the concession contract for one year was signed with Kinney Koncession Company.

On September 1, 1952 a fifteen year agreement was signed with Wolf & Dessauer for scoreboard advertising. The agreement prohibits competitive advertising in the arena for this period. This contract called for an investment of approximately $30,000.

On October 23, 1952 an ice hockey exclusive contract was signed with Fort Wayne Enterprises, Inc. This lease was for one year.

A permanently installed electric organ was donated to the Memorial Coliseum by Mrs. Ida Dick in memory of her late husband.

Identical plaques listing the names of the County officials, Board of Trustees, and others responsible for building and operating the Memorial Coliseum were placed at the east and west entrances to the Coliseum. These plaques note that "This Building initiated through the efforts of the Fort Wayne Junior Chamber of Commerce".

Although the Memorial Coliseum was a few weeks from completion the Allen County 4-H Fair was held in the Exhibit Hall and Parking Lot August 9-15, 1952.

SOURCE OF INCOME

Sale of Bonds (1950)	$3,000,000.00
Loan from School Fund (1952)	125,000.00
	$3,125,000.00

MAJOR EXPENDITURES

Real Estate	$ 51,150.00
Hagerman Construction Corp.	1,960,033.52
Hipskind Htg. & Plg. Co.	343,052.74
Lyman Electric Co.	197,076.28
Dehner, Inc. (Sewers)	31,550.80
Buildice, Inc. (Ice Floor)	88,909.65
Peabody Seating Co.	51,808.20
DiNatalie Floors (Basketball)	10,920.00
Altec Sound System	19,809.52
Warner Elevator Co.	18,069.00
City Water Main	19,272.26
Don White (Lockers)	1,929.00
Dehner, Inc. (Parking Lot)	111,368.00
Mitchell Mfg. Co. (Risers)	37,484.00
	$2,942,432.97
Architectual fees, office furniture, basketball back stops, tractors, mowers, and miscellaneous equipment.	182,567.03
	$3,125,000.00

MEMORIAL HALL

In the planning stage special attention was given to the Memorial features of Memorial Hall. Evidence of the special attention was shown as the Memorial Hall was completed. The Hall is finished in four kinds of marble, Renfrew from England, Notre Dame from France, Red Levonto from Italy, and Bois Jourdan from Spain, plus columns of Indiana limestone.

Five cast aluminum heads were placed on the exterior of the building above the windows of Memorial Hall. The heads symbolize the Marines, Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard.

With the aid of the Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations, the War Department, and relatives of the deceased, a list of names of Allen County casualties of World Wars I and II was compiled and printed in the Fort Wayne newspapers for additions and corrections.

Bronze memorial plaques were placed on the east and west walls of Memorial Hall. These plaques list the names of the deceased with the following tribute prepared by Rev. George B. Wood,

IN MEMORIAM

THIS COLISEUM IS DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL IN HONOR OF THESE MEN AND WOMEN OF ALLEN COUNTY WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES IN WORLD WARS I AND II OF OUR NATION SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE

DEDICATION

The Allen County Council of Veterans Organizations assumed the responsibility of arranging and conducting the dedication ceremonies, under the direction of Hugh Neeley, Council President.

The official dedication ceremony took place on Sunday afternoon, September 28, 1952. The event began with a parade from Zollner Stadium to St. Joe River Drive, to Parnell Avenue, to the Memorial Coliseum. Parade Chairman was H. M. Loomis. High School bands from the Fort Wayne and Allen County participated. Representatives of twenty four county veterans organizations marched in a body.

The Coliseum was filled with more than 10,000 persons for this gala occasion. Approximately 10,000 dedication programs were distributed. The program listed the names of those lost in World Wars I and II, a duplicate of the names listed in Memorial Hall.

The Master of Ceremonies for the dedication was George Kowalczyk.

The principal speaker for the dedication services was the newly elected National Commander of the American Legion, Lewis K. Gough. He was introduced by Carl J. Suedhoff.

DEDICATION PROGRAM

ORGAN PRELUDE - RAYMOND BEIGHTS

PARADE FROM ZOLLNER STADIUM TO COLISEUM

MUSIC BY UNITED STATES NAVY BAND

POSTING OF COLORS BY ALLEN COUNTY COUNCIL OF VETERANS ORGANIZATIONS

NATIONAL ANTHEM - SUNG BY JULE DORIOT

PRESENTATION OF MEMORIAL COLISEUM TO VETERANS COUNCIL FOR DEDICATION BY JAMES R. FLEMING, PRESIDENT OF MEMORIAL COLISEUM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

INVOCATION BY THE REV. HERMAN A. SCHOUDEL

"AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL,"
SUNG BY G. E. AEOLIAN CHOIR

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING BY MYRON GOLDMAN

INTRODUCTION OF DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,
GEORGE KOWALCZYK PRESIDING

OVERTURE BY UNITED STATES NAVY BAND

INTRODUCTION OF LEWIS K. GOUGH, NATIONAL COMMANDER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, BY CARL J. SUEDHOFF

DEDICATORY ADDRESS

PRAYER OF DEDICATION
REV. GEORGE B. WOOD

MOMENT OF SILENCE

DRUM ROLL, RIFLE SALUTE AND TAPS

"THE BATTLE HYMN OF THE REPUBLIC,"
SUNG BY THE AEOLIAN CHOIR

BENEDICTION BY THE REV. WILLIAM A. DANSBY

BENEDICTION RESPONSE

Immediately following the dedication service a large Industrial Show opened in the spacious Exhibit Hall. This show was sponsored by the Fort Wayne Chamber of Commerce and consisted of 139 booths displaying products and services offered by the city's and county's leading industries and utilities. This show continued Sunday thru Thursday of dedication week.

A hugh Square Dance Festival was held on the Monday night of dedication week (September 29, 1952). Thousands of spectators watched as hundreds of participants danced in colorful costumes. Two bands, Joe Taylor and The Redbirds, and Nancy Lee and the Hilltoppers, provided the music. Admission was free.

The Coliseum arena was changed to a mammoth ice rink for the Tuesday evening (September 30, 1952) free skating program for children and adults. Music was provided by Norm Carroll on the new Coliseum organ.

Several stars of "Holiday On Ice" gave short performances displaying outstanding skating ability.

On Wednesday, November 1, 1952, "Holiday On Ice" opened a nine day engagement.

The date of September 28, 1952 marked the end of one era and the beginning of another. That date marked the culmination of an effort by many individuals, groups, and organizations to erect a "living" memorial to those who gave their lives in the service of our country.

That date also marked the beginning of new opportunities for area residents as spectators and participants in sports, educational, religious, and commercial activities heretofore unavailable in this area. Many recognize the economic impact of this structure - all of this respecting the original purpose of the "living memorial" concept.

Much credit should be given to the Fort Wayne Junior Chamber of Commerce for originating this project and with the help of many pushing it to completion.

The Memorial Coliseum will stand for many years

"DEDICATED AS A LIVING MEMORIAL
IN HONOR OF THOSE MEN AND WOMEN
OF ALLEN COUNTY WHO GAVE THEIR
LIVES IN WORLD WARS I AND II OF
OUR NATION SO THAT WE MIGHT LIVE."

A P P E N D I X

DEED TO COLISEUM (MCKAY)

DEED TO COLISEUM (SNYDER)

DEED FOR JOHNNY APPLESEED (MCKAY)

THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH, That William T. McKay and Ruth B. McKay, his wife, of Allen County, in the State of Indiana, Convey and Warrant to the Board of Commissioners of Allen County, of Allen County, in the State of Indiana, for and in consideration of the sum of Thirty-one Thousand One Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars ($31,150.00), the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the following described Real Estate in Allen County in the State of Indiana, to-wit:

All that part of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 31 North, Range 12 East, in Allen County, State of Indiana, lying North of the high water mark of the former Wabash and Erie Canal Feeder, excepting therefrom the following described tract of land, to-wit: Commencing on the West line of the said West Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 25 at a point situated 1906.5 feet South of the Northwest corner of said West Half of the Northeast Quarter, thence Southeasterly by a deflection left of 43 degrees 50 minutes, 297.0 feet; thence Southeasterly by a deflection left of 12 degrees 5 minutes, 303.5 feet; thence Northeasterly by a deflection left of 54 degrees 48 minute 441.7 feet; thence Southeasterly by a deflection right of 24 degrees 48 minutes, 319.0 feet to a point on the high water mark of the former Wabash and Erie Canal Feeder; thence Southwesterly along the said high water mark by a deflection right of 112 degrees 45 minutes, 230.0 feet, more or less, to point on said high water mark; thence Southwesterly by a deflection right of 24 degrees 50 minutes, 311.6 feet; thence southwesterly along said water mark by a deflection right of 25 degrees 10 minutes, 868.5 feet to the West line of said quarter section; thence North on the aforesaid line, 834.2 feet to the point of beginning.

Also, part of the East half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 31 North, Range 12 East, described as follows: Commencing at a point on the West line of the said East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 25 at a point situated 1264.7 feet South of the Northwest corner of said East Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 25; thence Southeasterly by a deflection left of 74 degrees 34 minutes, a distance of 309.7 feet to the high water mark of the former Wabash and Erie Canal Feeder; thence Southwesterly along the line of said high water mark to its intersection by the West line of said East Half of the Northeast Quarter thence North along said West line of the East Half of the Northeast Quarter to the point of beginning.

The grantors reserve the right during the years 1947 and 1948 to cultivate and harvest the crops now growing on the above described premises.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the said grantors have hereunto set their hands and seals this 20 day of October 1947

(Revenue Stamps $34.65.)

William T. McKay
Ruth B. McKay

State of Indiana, Allen County, SS:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, this 20 day of October, 1947 personally appeared the within named William T. McKay and Ruth B. McKay, grantors in the above conveyance, and acknowledged the execution of the same to be their voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal.

(Notary Seal) My commission expires Sept. 8, 1950. S.S.Gerig, Notary Public.

APPROVED OCT 21, 1947. BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

William E. Roussey Erven Knight
James A. Liggett

Recorded Nov. 29, 1947. 12:01 P.M.

6814

This Indenture Witnesseth, That Cletus Snyder & Opal Snyder, husband and wife of Allen County, in the State of Indiana Convey and Warrant to Board of Commissioners of Allen County, of Allen County, in the State of Indiana, for and in consideration of Twenty Thousand ($20,000.00) Dollars, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the following described Real Estate in Allen County in the State of Indiana, to wit:

Part of the East -- of the Northeast quarter of Section 25, Township 31 North, Range 12 East, in Allen County, Indiana, by metes and bounds described as follows, to wit: Commencing at the northwest corner of the East half of the Northeast quarter of said section; thence East on the North line of said quarter Section 987.6 feet to its intersection by the West line of the right of way of the Indiana Service Corporation formerly occupied by the Wabash and Erie Feeder Canal; thence southwesterly on the west line of said right of way, 1506.5 feet; thence northwesterly by a deflection right of 77 degrees 12 minutes, a distance of 309.7 feet to a point on the west line of the East half of the Northeast quarter of said Section; thence North on the West line of the East half of said quarter Section, 1264.7 feet to the point of beginning; containing 19.67 acres; subject to an easement upon the North 40.0 feet thereof to the City of Fort Wayne, per D.R. 338, p. 63., excepting any and all legal highways or rights of way.

Subject to the taxes for the year 1947 payable in 1948.

This conveyance is executed and delivered as of this date subject to the following condition and reservation heretofore agreed to by and between the parties hereto and as a part of the consideration for this conveyance grantors herein reserve the right of use and occupancy of all the buildings situated upon said real estate and the necessary land adjacent hereto for the use and enjoyment of said buildings and the right of possession in and to the same is hereby reserved for a period of 6 months from date hereof. Grantees are given the right by the grantors during said 6 months for they or their agents and permittees or invitees to enter in and upon any and all of said real estate hereby conveyed for the purpose of making any necessary measurements or surveys.

In Witness Whereof, The said Cletus Snyder & Opal Snyder, husband and wife have hereunto set their hands and seals, this 17 day of January 1948.

(Revenue Stamps $22.00) Cletus Snyder (Seal) Opal Snyder (Seal)

State of Indiana, Allen County, SS:

Before me, the undersigned, a Notary Public, in and for said County and State, this 17 day of January, A.D., 1948, personally appeared the within named Cletus Snyder and Opal Snyder, husband and wife, Grantors in the above conveyance, and acknowledged the execution of the same to be their voluntary act and deed, for the uses and purposes herein mentioned.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my official seal.

(Notary Seal) My commission expires Nov. 28, 1949. F. Catherine Hageman, Notary Public.

Recorded Jan. 17, 1948. 11:30 A.M.

Recorder, Allen County, Indiana.

&&&&& D.B. 348 PAGES - 10 & 11

895

This Indenture Witnesseth, That William T. McKay and Ruth B. McKay, his wife, of Allen County, in the State of Indiana Release and Quit-Claim to Board of Commissioners of Allen County, of Allen County, in the State of Indiana, for and in consideration of One Dollar ($1.00) the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, the following described Real Estate in Allen County in the State of Indiana, to-wit:

That part of the West half of the Northeast Quarter and the West Half of the Southeast Quarter of Section 25, Township 31 North, Range 12 East, in Allen County, State of Indiana, describ as follows, to-wit: Commencing on the West line of the West Half of the Northeast Quarter of Section 25 at a point situated 1906.5 feet South of the Northwest Corner of said West Half of the Northeast Quarter, thence Southeasterly by a deflection left of 43 degrees 50 minutes, 297.0 feet; [illegible] thence Southeasterly by a deflection left of 12 degrees 5 minutes, 303.5 feet; thence Northeasterly by a deflection left of 54 degrees 48 minutes, 441.7 feet; thence Southeasterly by a deflection right of 24 degrees 48 minutes, 319.0 feet to point on the high water mark of the former Wabash & Erie Canal Feeder; thence Southwesterly along the said high water mark by a deflection right of 112 degrees 45 minutes, 230.0 feet, more or less, to point on said high water mark; thence Southwesterly by a deflection right of 24 degrees 50 minutes, 311.6 feet; thence Southwesterly along said water mark by a deflection right of 25 degrees 10 minutes, 868.5 feet to the West line of said quarter section; thence North on the aforesaid line, 834.2 feet to the point of beginning.

It is agreed between the grantors and grantees that the grave of ~~Jonathon~~ John Chapman, commonly known as "Johnny Appleseed" is located upon the above described tract of land and that the said tract is being donated by the said William T. McKay and Ruth B. McKay, his wife, as grantors and is hereby conveyed to, and accepted by, the said Board of Commissioners of Allen County for park purposes and that the said tract of ground and said grave located thereon are to be improved and maintained as a public park and as a memorial to and in commemoration of the life and services of the said ~~Jonathon~~ John Chapman.

In Witness Whereof, The said grantors have hereunto set their hands and seals, this 20 day of October 1947.

(No Revenue Stamps Affixed)

William T. McKay (Seal)

Ruth B. McKay (Seal)

HECKMAN
BINDERY INC.
MAY 95
Bound-To-Please® N. MANCHESTER,
INDIANA 46962